

**Commission on Aging
Minutes
November 2, 2015**

DRAFT

Present: Commission members Helen de Keijzer, Peg Anderson, Margarita Garces-Shapiro, Nina Daniel, and Don Gumaer; Department of Social Services Director Charlene Chiang-Hillman; Weston Senior Activities Center Director Wendy Petty and Program Coordinator Pam Wilson; Dial-a Ride driver Gordon Green; Westport Weston Health District (WWHD) representative Monica Wheeler and Woody Bliss.

The meeting was called to order at 9:25 a.m.

The October 5th meeting minutes were approved by consensus, as amended. (Within *the Friends Report*, Nina asked to change, “A portion of the money raised will go to help purchase the new bus” to, “All of the money....”)

SWCAA report: Meta Schroeter stopped by and stated that the annual meeting was held this month; new board members were introduced and officers elected.

Weston Social services Report: Charlene was happy to report that our Meals-on-Wheels service provider contract will continue with no increases since volunteer drivers have been found to pick up meals in Westport (at the senior center) for delivery in Weston. Charlene stated that her office is busy with sign-ups for heating fuel assistance, holiday basket preparations, and meeting food needs. Food Pantry issues are not yet resolved and Woody said he would welcome the opportunity to talk with anyone about implementing new Pantry procedures.

Gordon gave his monthly report and commented on the van’s tires. Discussion ensued about the upcoming need for replacing the van and about the Town’s vehicle sinking fund. The importance of the Town making automatic annual contributions to the fund for replacement of future Dial-a-Ride vans was noted.

Weston Senior Activities Center report: Wendy and Woody Bliss stated that this year’s most successful ever car show netted \$33,000 thus far and that they expected revenue would reach \$40,000-\$42,000 by the end of the year. The Friends have committed to spending the monies raised this year toward purchase of a new excursion bus for the Center and are preparing to request matching funds from the Town. Margarita made a motion that:

The Commission on Aging supports the Friends of the WSAC’s request to the Board of Selectmen and the Board of Finance to match it’s donation with town funds in order to purchase a senior center excursion bus.

The motion was seconded by Peggy and was passed unanimously.

Wendy continued and reported that she's happy working on the new Center website with Gayle Clayton. Helen passed around and discussed the design template, which was well received. Wendy went on to say that they are considering moving regular lunches to the Center while continuing to hold special holiday and/or other potentially larger lunches at Norfield Parish Hall. She commented that the numbers of participants is less consistent than in the past and the groups providing meals at Norfield are having more trouble finding volunteers to prepare and serve the meals. They are experimenting with sign ups for the lunches but no one will be turned away. Discussion ensued. Pam introduced the idea of a theme of the month for early next year; the first will focus on all things French and may include French language and cooking classes, movies, travelogues, and more.

WWHD report: Monica noted that recommendations on vaccines have changed and will write something on this topic for the next senior newsletter.

Helen mentioned the new Town Strategic Planning Committee and noted the importance of its potential work on issues such as alternative senior housing.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:50 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Don Gumaer,
Acting Secretary